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DEPARTMENT OF VISITING NURSING AND SOCIAL WELFARE



IN CHARGE OF

EDNA L. FOLEY, R.N.

[To keep this department up-to-date and helpfully interesting, nurses in social work of every description and superintendents of district nursing associations are asked to put the address of its editor—104 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago—on their mailing files for items, clippings, and annual reports.]

NEW YORK CITY.—The ninth annual report of the Visiting Nursing and Social Service Department of the Presbyterian Hospital has just been issued, and is a very complete though brief description of the work that has been carried on since 1904. Beginning with its purpose, organization, and support, the report goes on to explain the general plan of the work, the rules for student nurses, contents of the nurses' bags and the loan closet; the system of records, the coöperation with the hospital and the work of the special departments—social service and tuberculosis. The working force of the department, in 1912, consisted of one instructor, Margaret A. Bewley, R.N., two graduates, and three pupil nurses. The graduate nurses were in charge of the hospital social service work and the tuberculosis visiting. As the term of each pupil nurse lasts but two months, the continuity of the tuberculosis work was interrupted by each change, and so a graduate nurse, able to devote her full time to the clinic and home work, was engaged. This work is elective for the pupil nurses, and is a very popular course, carefully arranged to help both nurses and patients alike. Electives in any subject will help to make the three long years of hospital service more inviting to good students, and this precedent of the Presbyterian Hospital should be followed by more schools.

In addition to the work of the nursing staff, Hill Top Camp has been maintained during the summer, for two years, for tuberculosis children, and for nine years past the Katie Geitz Kitchen has been maintained for the free distribution of milk to patients in a congested district. Katie Geitz is a little German woman, an ex-patient of the visiting nurses, who is very glad to give the use of her kitchen and her services for the distribution of milk, sent daily by the Walker-Gordon Laboratory, and eggs given by friends or bought through a special fund.

The milk is minus some of its cream, and is of no use for further modification by the Walker-Gordon Company, but much of its nourishing quality remains, and thus, for a very little money, twenty quarts or more are obtainable daily for district use.

This report is of special interest to associations or hospitals desirous of interesting pupil nurses in public health work, and may be obtained by writing the Presbyterian Hospital, New York City.

WISCONSIN.—The Visiting Nurse Association of Milwaukee has just issued its fifth annual report. On its staff of fifteen nurses are three memorial and three industrial nurses. For six months two Polish nurses were employed for special baby work, and 205 babies were cared for, and their mothers instructed, during this time. During the summer two day camps were maintained and the good work of the winter continued. In all, nearly 30,000 visits were made by the nurses to over 4000 patients. Mrs. Kate J. Kohlsaet is superintendent.

The new Visiting Nurse Association of Beloit is fast proving itself a needed addition to the good work of its townspeople. Recently a local newspaper printed the monthly report of Anna Leutcher, R.N., the first visiting nurse, and emphasized the fact that the association stood prepared to help all sick people, on short notice.

Mary Saxton (Illinois Training School) is the visiting nurse for Madison, where the "Attic Angels," a group of young women anxious to serve their fellowmen, are, among other good things, the sponsors for the support of her work.

IOWA.—A visiting nurse association has been organized in Keokuk, and Emma Hobenicht, formerly of the staff of the St. Louis visiting nurses, was formally introduced to the townspeople at a luncheon, February 1, as the visiting nurse. The luncheon was held in the rooms of the Y. W. C. A., where Miss Hobenicht will have her office. One of the speakers at the luncheon was Margaret McClure, superintendent of the St. Louis Visiting Nurse Association.

INDIANA.—An attractive brown booklet announces to its friends and supporters that the Visiting Nurse Association of South Bend has completed its fifth busy year, and now has a staff of two nurses, Bessie Graham, R.N., being the first nurse and present head nurse. In addition to the usual district visiting, the nurses coöperate especially with the Children's Dispensary and the Anti-tuberculosis League, caring for all the incurable cases of tuberculosis, and supervising the homes of all patients discharged from the day camp. With a budget of a little more than \$4600.00, the association has been able to make 2403 calls on 408 patients. The secretary's report also calls attention

to the affiliation of the society with the National Organization for Public Health Nursing. Won't all societies thus affiliated mention this fact in their reports this year? The astonishing growth of the public health nursing work in the past few years and the gratifying trust of many communities in the endeavors and work of the nurses, put a heavy responsibility on each individual visiting nurse. Hence, a national membership is at once a guaranty of good faith; our bond, as it were, that our work is earnest and our vision lofty.

An interested group of workers in Indianapolis has recently formed a Public Health Nurses' Association, and the work of organization is being carefully done. Although there has been some visiting nursing done in Indianapolis in past years by various societies, it is hoped that a strong, unified society will be the outgrowth of the new plans. The supporters are to be congratulated on their choice of a title for the new organization.

KENTUCKY.—The Fayette County Anti-tuberculosis League of Lexington is planning to open its first open-air school for tuberculous children. Chloe Jackson, R.N. (Mercy Hospital, Chicago), is director of the League and was its first visiting nurse, not quite three years ago. The growth of the work has been most gratifying to Miss Jackson's many friends.

IDAHO.—Boise is another city that can claim the honor of having a municipal visiting nurse. The first and present appointee is Mrs. Mabel S. Avery (Illinois Training School).

MISSOURI.—At the second annual meeting of the Visiting Nurse Association of St. Louis, an encouraging amount of work accomplished but a disheartening lack of interest in contributions to the support of the work was discussed. The report of the superintendent, Margaret McClure, demonstrated clearly the call for the services of the nurses, and it is a great pity that the staff should have been reduced from 19 to 14 nurses during the year. If every one could remember that health alone frequently constitutes the one barrier between independence and dependence, between a comfortable life and a poverty-haunted one, that, after all, poverty is a relative term, removed by only one or two degrees of kinship from the average individual, contributions as thank-offerings for health continued or restored would surely flow into the coffers of an association whose one aim is to keep the well sound, and to help the sick and disabled to regain their health and independence.